IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

Reference entity 305 is an entity with respect to which the topography of object 306 is being determined. Reference entity 305 is preferably a two-dimensional X-Y plane, but can also be a point, a line, another topography surface, or any other reference with respect to which topography of surface 306 can be measured or calculated and in another coordinate ~~sytem~~ system. The position of the reference entity 305 with respect to the global coordinated system 300 is preferably determined by coordinates of a corner of the reference entity identified by reference number ~~303~~ 302, and two axes identified by reference numbers 303 and 304 along which topography of object is determined. However, the location of the reference entity 305 with respect to the global coordinate system may also be determined by three points positioned on the reference entity that are not positioned along the same line, and the location of axes along which topography data is measured or calculated. This latter approach is not as efficient as it requires storage of coordinates identifying the axes.

The paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 has been amended as follows:

Area A502 of the data storage format contains information regarding location of the reference entity 305 with respect to which topography of object 306 is obtained. The location of the reference entity is uniquely determined by points that are

positioned on surface of the reference entity and are not located on a same line. Reference number 302 is a vector that describes location of a corner of the reference entity with respect to the global reference system. Reference number 303 and 304 respectively identify directions along which topography data is sampled. Coordinates for vectors corresponding to reference numbers 302, 303 and 304 are stored in ~~a area~~ an area A502 on the inventive data storage format.